

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 2 is requested to be cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 10, 13, 16, 17, 20, 21 and 24 are currently being amended. Claim 26 is being added. No new matter is added.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1 and 3-26 are now pending in this application of which claims 16-20 are withdrawn from consideration.

Drawing objections

The drawings were objected to for not showing a spherical lens microlens structure, an aspherical lens microlens structure, an elliptical lens microlens structure, or a parabolic lens microlens structure. Applicant respectfully traverses this objection. The claims can clearly be understood and are enabling for a first surface structure function which is a spherical lens microlens structure, an aspherical lens microlens structure, an elliptical lens microlens structure, or a parabolic lens microlens structure without an amendment to the drawings. One skilled in the art would be aware of spherical, aspherical, elliptical, and parabolic lens microlens structures, and the claims reciting such structures are clearly enabled without a specific drawing with such features.

With respect to Figure 1, that Figure has been amended to label it as "PRIOR ART".

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by WIPO Publication No. 02/04858 to Gardiner (Gardiner). Claims 1 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,130,777 to Yamashita (Yamashita). Claims 1-6, 10-15 and 21-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being

anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,862,141 to Olczak (Olczak '141), or alternatively, by U.S. Patent No. 6,952,627 to Olczak et al. (Olczak '627). Claims 1 and 10-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,594,830 to Winston et al. (Winston) in view of Yamashita. Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olczak '141. Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita. Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gardiner in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 02/04858 to Te Kolste et al. (Te Kolste). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

As an initial matter, applicants note that Olczak '141 is not available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) because Olczak '141 and the present application have the same inventive entity. Thus all of the rejections based at least in part on Olczak '141 must fail.

With respect to the remaining references cited in the rejection of the claims, none of these claims disclose or suggest the recited feature of claim 1 of "a first surface defined by a first surface structure function modulated by a second surface structure function such that the first surface acts to diffuse light incident on the film, wherein the first surface structure function has a function of a microlens structure, and the second surface structure function has characteristics to provide the diffuse light, wherein the first surface has a correlation function value of less than about 37 percent in a correlation length of about 1 cm or less." (emphasis added).

Gardiner discloses a number of embodiments including a linear Fresnel lens 80 in Figure 9 with a surface 84 formed with lens structures 86 and additional optical structures 88 superimposed on the lens structures 86. Gardiner, however, does not disclose that the additional optical structures 88 have a characteristic to provide diffuse light such that the surface 84 has a correlation function value of less than about 37 percent in a correlation length of about 1 cm or less.

Yamashita discloses in Figure 12(A) a lenticular lens sheet with transverse ridges and furrows, which is capable of diffusing light (col. 16, lines 51-59). Yamashita, however, does

not disclose that the ridges and furrows have a characteristic to provide diffuse light such that the surface of the lenticular lens sheet has a correlation function value of less than about 37 percent in a correlation length of about 1 cm or less.

Olczak '627, while disclosing prism structures with modulated surfaces, does not disclose a first surface structure function having a function of a microlens structure, as recited in claim 1.

Winston and Te Kolste were cited for allegedly disclosing a light source and prism film, and a specific function for the first surface, respectively, but fail to cure the deficiencies of Gardiner, Yamashita and Olczak '627.

Independent claims 10, 13, 21 and 24 have been amended in a fashion corresponding to claim 1, and are patentable for analogous reasons.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

New claim 26 has been added and is believed to be patentable.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The specific changes which have been made to FIG. 1 have been amended to label it as "PRIOR ART".

Appended to this amendment is an annotated copy of FIG. 1 which has been marked to show changes presented in the replacement sheet of the drawing.



Fig. 1 PRIOR ART

